



# MEDIA RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### SCOTT AIRMEN SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN HAITI

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SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — A four-person team with the 375th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in support of humanitarian operations there March 3.

With less than 12-hours notice, the Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team was headed out of the country. The team, made up of a flight nurse, a medical service corps officer, and two radio operators provide support between the onsite medical treatment capabilities and the Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center to ensure that the sick and injured are evacuated when needed.

Members of the AE community know the potential to deploy last minute, explained Staff Sgt. Michael Burdette, Unit Deployment Manager for the 375 AES. "Like all AES professionals, we're always ready to deploy on a moments notice," he said. "I think we mentally prepare ourselves for last-minute departures; this somehow makes it a little easier."

Being the first Aeromedical team on the ground, they quickly set up and began supporting patient and casualty movement for coalition forces.

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“When our nation needs us, our teams are always ready to deploy anywhere in the world, at any time,” said Col. David Doty, 375th AES commander. “When the team was called for this short-notice departure, they didn’t hesitate. Wing-wide agencies came together and ensured that our team made a smooth departure. We really couldn’t have done it without them.”

Colonel Doty explained that, as enablers, the AE community doesn’t fall under the traditional Air Expeditionary Force cycles. “We rely heavily upon our functional managers to keep us abreast of any upcoming deployments,” he said. “Still, there’s no way to predict when world situations are going to call us in a matter of hours.”

To ensure AES teams are ready to go a moments notice, planning ahead is vital, explained Sergeant Burdette. “Planning with items such as training, family matters, legal documents, life insurance and weapons training are essential to a last-minute deployment,” he said. “Situations like this simply emphasize why planning ahead is important.”

While the team is scheduled for a 90-day deployment, Colonel Doty explains that teams deploy for as long as it takes. “It’s understood in our low-density, high-demand career field that orders are always subject to change. Still, when talking about saving lives, most would agree that the number of days is irrelevant.”